

Message Text

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00857 212127Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 030914

R 210915Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 857

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MR MO UR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET INTEREST IN ACCESS TO MAURITANIAN
AND MOROCCAN NAVAL FACILITIES

1. FONMIN MOUKNASS TOLD ME SEPT 19 THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR RAKHMATOV TWICE IN RECENT MONTHS HAD COME TO HIM PROPOSING RUSSIAN ARMS SUPPLY AND MILITARY ADVISORY MISSION FOR GIRM. THESE MEETINGS HAD BEEN ON SOVIET INITIATIVE AND FOLLOWED MAURITANIA'S ABOLITION OF ITS MILITARY ACCORDS WITH FRANCE. EACH TIME MOUKNASS HAD FIRMLY REBUFFED HIM STATING THAT MAURITANIA HAD ARRANGED FOR ARMS AND TRAINING FROM OTHER SOURCES AND HAD ALSO DECIDED FRENCH MILITARY MISSION WAS FIRST AND LAST OF ITS KIND THIS COUNTRY WOULD EVER ACCEPT. AMB RAKHMATOV, MOUKNASS SAID, HAD ALSO HINTED BROADLY OF SOVIET INTEREST IN HAVING SOME SORT OF NAVAL FACILITY IN NOUADHIBOU PORT. FONMIN SIMPLY IGNORED THIS HINT.

2. MOUKNASS ADDED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO SPAIN FOLLOWING ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (MADRID 5180), SPANISH HAD EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN TO HIM OVER REPORTS THAT MOROCCO HAD RECENTLY AGREED TO GRANT SOVIETS NAVAL FACILITIES AT
SECRET

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00857 212127Z

AGADIR. ASKED FOR COMMENT ON THESE REPORTS, REPLIED THAT I UNINFORMED. FONMIN STATED HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT. SOVIET-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS, WHICH NEVER CLOSE, WERE CHILLED BY APPARENT MIXUP AND SUBSEQUENT CANCELLATION OF PLANS FOR OULD DADDAH VISIT TO USSR LAST JUNE (NOUAKCHOTT 462). IN INTERIM, BY FONMIN'S OWN STATEMENT, LACK OF ANY SOVIET OFFER OF HELP FOR OR EVEN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN RE MAURITANIA'S DROUGHT STRICKEN POPULATION HAS FURTHER LOWERED THE TEMPERATURE. IN ANY EVENT, IF MOSCOW THOUGHT IT COULD INTEREST MAURITANIA IN ESTABLISHING ANY FORMAL BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BELIEVE IT HAS BADLY MISJUDGED THIS LEADERSHIP'S VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNMENT. GIRM HAS APPARENTLY WORKED OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WITH ALGERIA TO REPLACE FRANCE AS PRINCIPAL SOURCE FOR ITS LIMITED ARMS NEEDS AND FOR MILITARY ADVISORY SERVICES. AT LEAST TWO SIZEABLE ALGERIAN MILITARY MISSIONS HAVE VISITED HERE IN PAST SIX MONTHS.

4. ADVISE WHAT I MAY INFORM FONMIN RE REPORTED SOVIET INTEREST AND SUCCESS, IF ANY, IN SECURING NAVAL FACILITY IN MOROCCO.

MURPHY

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC00857
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750011-2402
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqcegfk.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED SOVIET INTEREST IN ACCESS TO MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN NAVAL FACILITIES
TAGS: MARR, MR, MO, UR
To: STATE INFO ALGIERS
MADRID
MOSCOW
PARIS
RABAT
USUN N Y
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005